

## “KEEPING PACE” - #57

### DRYWALL PROTECTS HOT WATER HEATER:



The photograph above shows the remains of an absolute total mobile home fire. The top arrow points to a hot water heater which sustained no burn damage at all during this very intense fire. The insured had installed drywall on the walls of the closet which enclosed the hot water heater, but nowhere else. The white paint on the insides of the walls also remained unburned, as shown by the bottom arrow.

We believe the lack of drywall in mobile homes is what allows fires to accelerate so quickly in them. Most mobile homes have wood paneling on their walls instead of drywall (also called sheet rock in some places), and the wood paneling burns much more readily than drywall. Since drywall does not readily burn, it can contain a fire for an hour or more before decomposing.

(Editor's Note: This newsletter was first issued in 1994. Most mobile homes now have drywall instead of wood paneling.)

Sincerely,



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